

**CECCM GROUP ON SMOKING RESTRICTIONS : REPORT OF MEETING  
OF MAY 5 1994**

**1. CECCM FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

It had been agreed at the previous meeting that coordinated EU/national action was considered essential to counter the increasing drive toward bans generated by the EU institutions. Elements of a proposed CECCM Framework for Action which could serve to directly counter EU initiatives were discussed.

- **Science of ETS**

The group discussed the merits of establishing a network of independent European scientists willing to speak out against the alleged risks of ETS and to publicise their concerns over the misuse of science. This network would be built upon the existing programmes in Germany which have had considerable success. The key targets of this network would be the scientific community, government technocrats, employers and union groups acting directly as well as via specialist and general media.

Action: Chris Proctor (BAT) would, via Shook, Hardy and Bacon, identify scientists prepared to go public at country level, and attempt to identify a network leader for direct contacts with EU institutional targets as well as to provide cohesion and impetus to the network.

- **US Extremism**

The group considered the concept of bringing together US public policy groups/journalists who have been instrumental in criticising developments in the US as extremist and overly politically correct, with European public policy Institutes and "intellectuals" considered to harbour similar sentiments. It was agreed that this concept should be tested in markets where receptivity was likely to be most positive: France, Ireland and the UK; the objective being to heighten media antipathy toward, and ridicule of, US extremism. The example of ETS could be used to illustrate the wider phenomenon, in order to position the antis as zealots. Media coverage could be encouraged to spill over into other countries with CECCM acting as coordinator.

Action: NMAs to identify journalists and public policy bodies potentially receptive to these arguments.

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- Smokers' Clubs

A pro-smoking journalists' Dining Club had recently been established in Ireland; the interest from journalists had been extremely encouraging. It was agreed that such a concept could be equally successful in other countries, particularly as outspoken journalists were effective in delivering positive messages to other journalists.

Further discussion of successful concepts which could usefully be exported from one European country to another would continue at the next meeting.

## 2. **EU TRANSPORT PROPOSAL (Smoking Ban Provision)**

Reinhardt Pauling (VdC) reported that the number 3 official in the German Labour Ministry had informed him that the German government intends to have the proposed Directive withdrawn during the German Presidency. The Germans reportedly have obtained UK government support and are currently actively soliciting French government support. It appears that without French government support, the German government would be unwilling to push for withdrawal.

Action : Pauling to obtain more detail on the German government's intentions within Council and the status of negotiations between the German and French Ministries in order that the CECCM group agree a strategy in support of the German government position.

A delegation from CECCM would meet with consultants Lovell, White, Durrant for a progress report on mobilisation of the European transport industry whose support is crucial in defeating the proposal.

## 3. **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INITIATIVES**

### A. Schleicher report on Environment and Health

The report, as amended by the Environment Committee to form a European Parliament submission to the WHO conference on Environment and Health, was expected to be adopted in Plenary without amendment on 6 May. The report includes a provision calling for "responsible assessment of the results of epidemiological research to ensure the effectiveness of public health measures", which serves to support PM's efforts to have the Commission adopt an EU Resolution on Good Epidemiological Practice (to counter the IARC threat). An amendment calling for smoking bans in the workplace, in public places and on transport had been defeated at Committee stage.

### B. Collins report on the Commission's Framework for Action on Public Health

The Collins report had been taken off the Plenary agenda with the intention that it be considered by the new Parliament. This would entail re-examination of the report, with the possibility of new amendments being tabled by the newly comprised Environment Committee. This report is a further vehicle PM is using to promote the concept of G.E.P. within DG V.

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C. Hughes report on the Commission's Framework for Action on Health and Safety at Work

This report, as adopted by the Social Affairs Committee, calls for Commission action on a series of priority worker health and safety issues. Smoking is not referenced. The report was due to be adopted without amendment on 6 May. The Commission's Framework will form the basis for EU legislative initiatives in the area of worker health and safety until the year 2000.

4. **EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK**

With the second reading by the EP completed, the Council is expected to agree formal establishment of the Agency under the Greek Presidency. The Agency will be sited in Bilbao, Spain.

5. **IARC STUDY ON ETS**

It was noted that the country collaborators' meeting to pool their individual study results and to determine methods for central analysis of the data would take place earlier than envisaged, in June 1994. It is expected that preliminary findings will be released by Saracci, one of the IARC study coordinators, at the WHO conference on Smoking or Health, Paris in October. The study results are due to be published by IARC mid-1995.

6. **EPA REPORT ON THE BENEFITS OF BANNING PUBLIC SMOKING**

CECCM would circulate this EPA report along with rebuttals published by two US policy organisations.

7. The next meeting of the Group will be held on 22 June 1994.

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